

NEWS FROM

SENATOR TOM DASCHLE and SENATOR TIM JOHNSON

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Daschle and Johnson Announce Funding for South Dakota Projects in Energy and Water Appropriations Bill *Rural Water Projects Fare Well*

Washington, DC—Senators Tom Daschle (D-SD) and Tim Johnson (D-SD) announced final funding levels for water and infrastructure projects in South Dakota. The funding was included in the final conference report on the FY 2004 Energy and Water appropriations bill. The conference report is expected to be approved by the House and Senate and signed into law by the President.

“These projects are vital to South Dakota’s economy, and ensuring that they receive this critical funding has been one of my top priorities,” said Senator Daschle. I’m particularly pleased that we were so successful in securing funding for South Dakota’s drinking water projects. Today, we moved one step closer to reaching our goal of providing access to clean drinking water for every South Dakotan.”

“Providing clean drinking water to those who need it is critical and must not fall by the wayside. The White House initially provided little to no funding for these projects. I am pleased we were able to bring the funding up to an acceptable level and bring us closer to providing safe, reliable water to South Dakota,” said Johnson, a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Final funding totals for several water projects are posted below.

	<u>Bush Request</u>	<u>House</u>	<u>Senate</u>	<u>Final Funding</u>
Lewis & Clark	\$0		\$20 million	\$17 million
Mni Wiconi	\$6.7 million	\$20 million	\$25.2	\$25.2 million (construction)
maintenance)	\$6.2 million	\$6.2 million	\$6.2	\$6.2 million (operations &
			\$31.4 million	\$31.4 million (total)
Mid Dakota	\$2 million	\$12 million	\$15 million	\$15 million
Perkins County	\$0	\$0	\$1 million	\$1 million

Additional projects receiving funding in the bill include:

- \$14 million to improve wildlife habitat on the Missouri river to expand recreational opportunities and protect cultural resources for the Cheyenne River and Lower Brule Sioux Tribe.

- \$6 million to support ongoing efforts to rehabilitate and improve flood control structures on the Big Sioux River in Sioux Falls.
- \$6 million for the multi-year buyout of flooded homes that have been damaged by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers operations on Lake Oahe in Pierre and Fort Pierre.
- \$1.3 million for the Intertribal Council on Utility Policy to support the development of a renewable energy programs on Indian reservations, including a 50-megawatt wind energy project on tribal lands in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Nebraska.
- \$500,000 to continue efforts to establish a task force to reduce sedimentation on the Missouri River.
- \$400,000 to complete an Environmental Impact Statement to improve flood control throughout the James River Valley.